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PATENT

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Katie Hales
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/631,247

Attorney Docket: DP-300332

Filing Date: 08/02/2000

Group Art Unit: 1764

Applicant: Gregory Thomas Roth et al.

Examiner: Doroshenk, Alexa A.

Title: LOW PROFILE, INTEGRATED CATALYTIC CONVERTER
AND FLEX COUPLING

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office communication mailed October 18, 2004.

In the Provisional Election filed July 7, 2004, Applicants provisionally elected to prosecute Group II, claims 3-27, but inadvertently overlooked election between Subgroups A and B within Group II, wherein:

Subgroup A, claims 3-17, is directed to an integrated catalytic converter/flexible coupling assembly; and

Subgroup B, claims 18-32, is directed to a method for making a catalytic converter/flexible coupling assembly.

Applicants' concur with the Examiner's finding of 32 total claims, and note the

addition of claims 28-32 to Group II and Subgroup B.

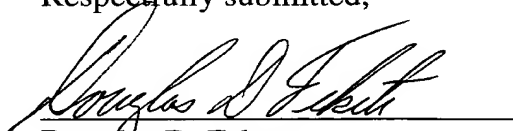
Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Subgroup A of Group II, claims 3-17. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement.

Subgroup A includes a sole independent claim 3 calling for a first bellows and a second bellows secured at their peripheries. For Subgroup B, the sole independent claim 18 is directed to a method that includes, as a key step, forming a flexible coupling assembly that includes a first and a second bellow secured at their peripheries. Even a casual read of the claims reveals that the claims are merely aspects of but a single invention. Therefore, efficiency, both on the part of Applicants, and also on the part of the Patent Office, mandates that, where the claims have common distinctive features such as here, all claims should be examined together.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn, and that all claims of Subgroups A and B be considered in the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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